

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus ~~capable of communicating with a plurality of printing devices, said apparatus~~ comprising:

a storage device, for storing predetermined objects for the printing devices based on directory information including a tree list;

first display means for displaying a printer folder for printer management, the printer folder including a search icon;

designation means for designating the search icon included in the printer folder displayed by said first display means;

search means for searching for a plurality of printing devices provided on a network in response to a designation made by said designation means;

detection means, for detecting specific objects in the directory information read from said storage device, the specific objects including at least a first specific object corresponding to a first one of the plurality of printing devices found by said search means and a second specific object corresponding to a second one of the plurality of printing devices found by said search means;

second display means, for displaying, in accordance with the tree list, the specific objects detected by said detection means; and

control means, for permitting said second display means to display, in accordance with the tree list, the specific objects detected by said detection means, such that the first specific object is displayed in the tree list with a higher display priority than the second specific object if a number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the first printing device and said information processing apparatus is smaller than a number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the second printing device and said information processing apparatus.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means performs sorting for an object display, so that the specific objects are displayed at a higher location on a list.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the specific objects detected by said detection means are to be displayed on said display means in accordance with the tree list, and when one of the specific objects cannot be referred to directly due to access right limitations, said control means does not permit said display means to display that one specific object, and wherein, when each one of the specific objects is unable to be referred to directly due to access right limitations, said control means permit said display means to display a higher object for which there are no access right problems.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specific objects include an object for a printer device.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specific objects include an object for a compound device including a printer function.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An information processing method, for an information processing apparatus ~~capable of communicating with a plurality of printing devices~~ and including a storage device for storing predetermined objects for the printing devices based on directory information including a tree list, said method comprising:

a first display step of displaying a printer folder for printer management, the printer folder including a search icon;

a designation step of designating the search icon included in the printer folder displayed in said first display step;

a search step of searching for a plurality of printing devices provided on a network in response to a designation made in said designation step;

a detection step of detecting specific objects in the directory information read from the storage device, the specific objects including at least a first specific object corresponding to a first one of the plurality of printing devices found in said search step and a second specific object corresponding to a second one of the plurality of printing devices found in said search step;

a second display step of, in accordance with the tree list, displaying on display means the specific objects detected in said detection step; and

a control step of permitting the display means to display, in accordance with the tree list, the specific objects detected in said detection step, such that the first specific object is displayed in the tree list with a higher priority than the second specific object if a number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the first printing device and the information processing apparatus is smaller than a number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the second printing device and the information processing apparatus.

Claims 9 and 10. (canceled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein sorting for an object display is performed in said control step, so that the specific objects are displayed at a higher location on a list.

Claim 12 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein, when one of the specific objects detected in said detection step is to be displayed on the display means in accordance with the tree list, and when the specific object cannot be referred to directly due to access right limitations, said control step is executed in such manner as not to permit the display means to display that one specific object, and wherein, when each one of the specific objects is unable to be referred to directly due to access right limitations,

said control step is executed in such manner as to permit the display means to display a higher object for which there are no access right problems.

Claim 13 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein the specific objects include an object for a printer device.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein the specific objects include an object for a compound device including a printer function.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium storing a control program, which is executed by an information processing apparatus ~~capable of communicating with a plurality of printing devices and~~ including a storage device for storing predetermined objects for the printing devices based on directory information including a tree list, said program comprising:

code for a first display step of displaying a printer folder for printer management, the printer folder including a search icon;

code for a designation step of designating the search icon included in the printer folder displayed in said first display step;

code for a search step of searching for a plurality of printing devices provided on a network in response to a designation made in said designation step;

code for a detection step of detecting specific objects in the directory information read from the storage device, the specific objects including at least a first specific object corresponding to a first one of the plurality of printing devices found in said search step and a second specific object corresponding to a second one of the plurality of printing devices found in said search step;

code for a second display step of, in accordance with the tree list, displaying on display means the specific objects detected in said detection step; and

code for a control step of permitting the display means to display, in accordance with the tree list, the specific objects detected in said detection step, such that the first specific object is displayed in the tree list with a higher priority than the second specific object if a number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the first printing device and the information processing apparatus is smaller than a number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the second printing device and the information processing apparatus.

Claims 16 and 17. (canceled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein execution of said code for a control step is done such that sorting for an object display is performed, and the specific objects are displayed at a higher location on a list.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein execution of said code for a control step, when one of the specific objects detected in the detection step is to be displayed on the display means in accordance with the tree list, and when the specific object cannot be referred to directly due to access right limitations, does not permit the display means to display that one specific object, and wherein, when each one of the specific objects is unable to be referred to directly due to access right limitations, execution of said code for a control step permits the display means to display a higher object for which there are no access right problems.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the specific objects include an object for a printer device.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the specific objects include an object for a compound device including a printer function.

Claims 22 -36 (canceled).

Claim 37 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means permits said second display means to display such that the first specific object is placed at a higher position in the tree list than the second specific object if the number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the first printing

device and said information processing apparatus is smaller than the number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the second printing device and said information processing apparatus.

Claim 38 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein said control step includes causing performance of said second display step to display such that the first specific object is placed at a higher position in the tree list than the second specific object if the number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the first printing device and the information processing apparatus is smaller than the number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the second printing device and the information processing apparatus.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein execution of said code for a control step includes causing ~~performance~~ execution of said code for a display second step to display such that the first specific object is placed at a higher position in the tree list than the second specific object if the number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the first printing device and the information processing apparatus is smaller than the number of other information processing apparatuses which exist between the second printing device and the information processing apparatus.



Claim 40. (new): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising discrimination means for discriminating, for each of the specific objects detected by said detection means, whether the specific object has a display right,

wherein said control means permits said second display means to display the specific objects such that if said discrimination means discriminates that a certain specific object has a display right, the certain specific object does not have a display right, a specific object having a display right and a higher display priority than the certain specific object is displayed.

Claim 41. (new): An information processing method according to claim 8, further comprising a discrimination step of discriminating, for each of the specific objects detected by said detection means, whether the specific object has a display right,

wherein said control step includes permitting execution of said second display step to display the specific objects such that if, in said discrimination step, it is discriminated that a certain specific object has a display right, the certain specific object does not have a display right, a specific object having a display right and a higher display priority than the certain specific object is displayed.

Claim 42. (new): A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, further comprising code for a discrimination step of discriminating, for each of the specific objects detected by execution of said code for a detection means, whether the specific object has a display right,

wherein execution of said code for a control step permits execution of said code for a second display step to display the specific objects such that if execution of said code for a discrimination step results in discriminating that a certain specific object has a display right, the certain specific object does not have a display right, a specific object having a display right and a higher display priority than the certain specific object is displayed.